

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 21, 24, 25 and 27 as follows, and add the following new claims 49-52.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for handling aircraft control information, comprising:

a display medium positioned at a pedestal between operator seats of the aircraft and coupleable to a flight manager, the flight manager being configured to receive and direct instructions for automatically controlling aircraft functions at a future time during flight of the aircraft in accordance with a computer-based flight plan; and

a display controller coupled to the display medium to present at least one operator activatable element at the display medium and update flight plan information presented at the display medium when the operator activates the operator activatable element.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the display controller is configured to direct a display of information corresponding to uncompleted segments of a flight plan.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising the flight manager, and wherein the flight manager is operatively coupled to flight control surfaces of the aircraft, and wherein the flight manager is further configured to receive and direct instructions for automatically controlling the aircraft at least approximately immediately upon receipt.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising the flight manager, and wherein the flight manager is configured to automatically provide guidance cues to the operator.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a cursor control device operatively coupled to the display medium, and wherein the cursor control device is configured to direct the movement of a cursor at the display medium.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a keyboard operatively coupled to the display medium.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the display controller is configured to present at least one operator activatable element having an appearance generally similar to that of a mechanical switch.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the display controller is configured to:

receive an input corresponding to a proposed value to be submitted to the flight manager;

display the input at a preview display field; and

upon receiving a signal authorized by the operator, submit the proposed value to the flight manager.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the display controller is configured to display a plurality of operator activatable elements, with a first one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a first manner and a second one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a second manner visually different than the first manner, with the second operator activatable element corresponding to an active display field selected for updating.

10-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A system for handling aircraft control information, comprising:

display means positioned at a pedestal between operator seats of the aircraft and coupleable to a flight manager, the flight manager being configured to receive and direct instructions for automatically controlling aircraft behavior at a future time in accordance with a computer-based flight plan; and

control means coupled to the display means to present at least one operator activatable element at the display ~~medium~~means and update flight plan information presented at the display ~~medium~~means when the operator activates the operator activatable element.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the control means is configured to direct a display of information corresponding to uncompleted segments of a flight plan.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising the flight manager, and wherein the flight manager is operatively coupled to flight control surfaces of the aircraft.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising a cursor control device operatively coupled to the display medium, and wherein the cursor control device is configured to direct the movement of a cursor at the display ~~medium~~means.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising a keyboard operatively coupled to the display ~~medium~~means.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the control means is configured to:

receive an input corresponding to a proposed value to be submitted to the flight manager;

display the input at a preview display field; and

upon receiving a signal authorized by the operator, submit the proposed value to the flight manager.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the ~~display-controller~~ means is configured to display a plurality of operator activatable elements, with a first one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a first manner and a second one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a second manner visually different than the first manner, with the second operator activatable element corresponding to an active display field selected for updating.

28-48. (Cancelled)

49. (New) A system for handling aircraft control information, comprising:

a display medium coupleable to a flight manager, the flight manager being configured to receive and direct instructions for automatically controlling aircraft functions at a future time during flight of the aircraft; and

a display controller coupled to the display medium to present at least one operator activatable element at the display medium and update information presented at the display medium when the operator activates the operator activatable element, wherein the display controller is configured to:

receive an input corresponding to a proposed value to be submitted to the flight manager;

display the input at a preview display field; and

upon receiving a signal authorized by the operator, submit the proposed value to the flight manager.

50. (New) A system for handling aircraft control information, comprising:

a display medium coupleable to a flight manager, the flight manager being configured to receive and direct instructions for automatically controlling aircraft functions at a future time during flight of the aircraft; and

a display controller coupled to the display medium to present a plurality of operator activatable elements at the display medium and update information presented at the display medium when the operator activates the operator activatable element, with a first one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a first manner and a second one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a second manner visually different than the first manner, with the second operator activatable element corresponding to an active display field selected for updating.

51. (New) A system for handling aircraft control information, comprising:

display means coupleable to a flight manager, the flight manager being configured to receive and direct instructions for automatically controlling aircraft behavior at a future time; and

control means coupled to the display means to present at least one operator activatable element at the display means and update information presented at the display means when the operator activates the operator activatable element, wherein the control means is configured to:

receive an input corresponding to a proposed value to be submitted to the flight manager;

display the input at a preview display field; and

upon receiving a signal authorized by the operator, submit the proposed value to the flight manager.

52. (New) A system for handling aircraft control information, comprising:

display means coupleable to a flight manager, the flight manager being configured to receive and direct instructions for automatically controlling aircraft behavior at a future time; and

control means coupled to the display means to present a plurality of operator activatable elements at the display means and update information presented at the display means when the operator activates the operator activatable element, with a first one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a first manner and a second one of the operator activatable elements displayed in a second manner visually different than the first manner, with the second operator activatable element corresponding to an active display field selected for updating.